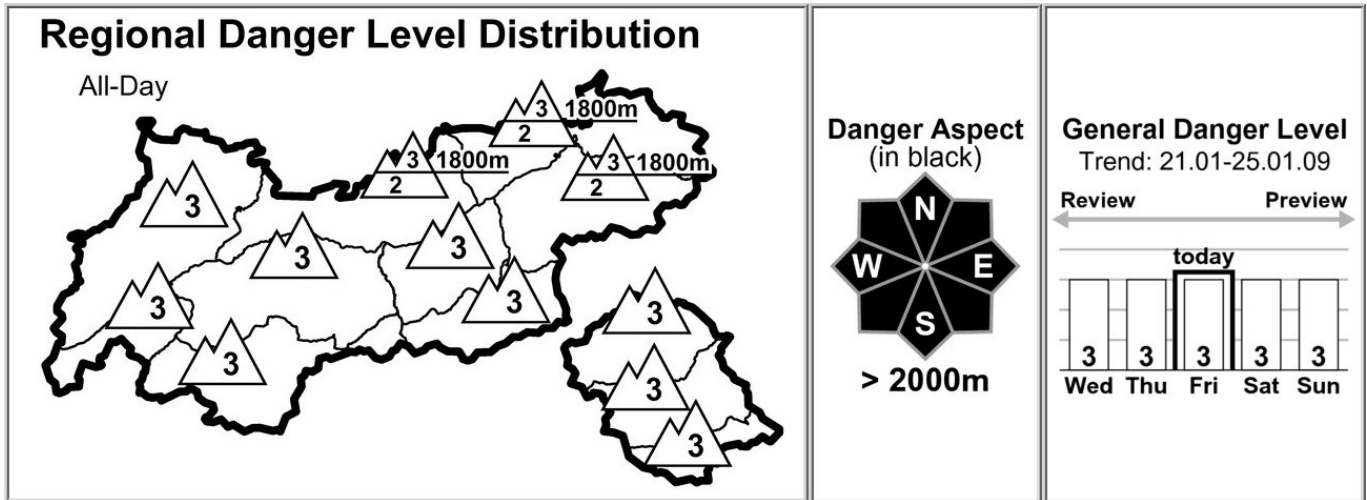


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 23.01.2009, at 07:30



STORM WINDS AT HIGH ALTITUDES CREATE NEW SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tyrol's touring regions remains tense, widespread the danger is considerable. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, especially above about 2000 m. Snowdrifted gullies and bowls, as well as high alpine areas adjacent to ridge lines, must be assessed critically, having been heavily impacted by brisk to stormy southerly to westerly winds. Even minimum additional loading is usually sufficient to trigger a slab avalanche, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs require experience in assessing the avalanche situation.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday afternoon, the southerly to southwesterly winds increased noticeably in strength. Particularly above approximately 2000 m, snow was again transported, creating freshly formed, mostly small sized snowdrift accumulations. The new snow and snowdrift of recent days are often deposited atop an old snowpack whose surface consists of loosely packed, faceted crystals. Thus, the bonding between new snow and old snow is generally very poor. Avalanches can be released with relative ease.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather today: a strong westerly to southwesterly air current will bring variable, intermittently foehn-influenced, conditions to Tyrol on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, an intermediate high pressure front will make itself felt. Mountain weather today: the brisk foehn winds will bring sunshine towards eastern regions, at least for a time. Then, in the afternoon, cloudiness and local showers will set in. Between the Allgäu and Ötztal Alps, pleasant conditions to begin with, as of late morning the conditions will turn variable, amid intermittent snow flurries. Towards evening, snowfall will set in widespread. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 3 and 0 degrees; at 3000 m: between minus 8 and minus 4 degrees. Strong, partly stormy southerly to westerly winds will be raised at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Escalating avalanche danger through new snow and winds.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe